



The State of New Hampshire  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

January 3, 2008

The Honorable Judith T. Spang, Chairman  
Resources, Recreation, and Development  
Legislative Office Building, Room 305  
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: HB 1128, mandating the commissioner of the department of environmental services to conduct an examination of Willand Pond in the Dover/Somersworth area...**

Dear Chairman Spang:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 1128, which would require the Department of Environmental Services (DES) to examine water quality and flooding issues on Willand Pond and submit a report to the legislature by April 1, 2008. As discussed below, the examination of Willand Pond proposed by HB 1128 is currently being accomplished by DES in close collaboration with the Cities of Dover and Somersworth. Therefore, we believe that this legislation is unnecessary at this time.

Willand Pond is a 286-acre natural lake in Somersworth and Dover. Chronically high lake levels in the recent past have resulted in the flooding of shore lands and parts of a recreational area. Also, in 2007, the lake experienced a significant water quality problem, a cyanobacteria bloom that lasted most of the summer.

In a letter to the Mayor Myers of Dover and Mayor Watman of Somersworth dated October 2, 2007 (copy attached), I outlined seven proposed steps to address the water quality and flooding issues at Willand Pond. This letter has since formed the framework for ongoing activities to improve Willand Pond by DES, Dover and Somersworth. Progress has been made on all seven of the recommended steps and more is expected in 2008.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to call Paul Currier at 271-3289 or me at 271-3449.

Sincerely,

  
Thomas S. Burack  
Commissioner

Cc: Rep. Hofemann  
Rep. Fargo  
Rep. Berube  
Rep. Brennan  
Rep. Watson